

1 AN ACT

2 relating to the ethics of certain public officials, including
3 certain disclosure requirements.

4 BE IT ENACTED BY THE LEGISLATURE OF THE STATE OF TEXAS:

5 SECTION 1. This Act shall be cited as the J D Lambright
6 Local Government Ethics Reform Act.

7 SECTION 2. Section 2252.908(b), Government Code, is amended
8 to read as follows:

9 (b) This section applies only to a contract of a
10 governmental entity or state agency that:

11 (1) requires an action or vote by the governing body of
12 the entity or agency before the contract may be signed; ~~[or]~~

13 (2) has a value of at least \$1 million; or

14 (3) is for services that would require a person to
15 register as a lobbyist under Chapter 305.

16 SECTION 3. Section 140.0045, Local Government Code, is
17 amended to read as follows:

18 Sec. 140.0045. ITEMIZATION OF CERTAIN ~~[PUBLIC NOTICE]~~
19 EXPENDITURES REQUIRED IN CERTAIN POLITICAL SUBDIVISION BUDGETS.

20 (a) Except as provided by Subsection (b), the proposed budget of a
21 political subdivision must include, in a manner allowing for as
22 clear a comparison as practicable between those expenditures in the
23 proposed budget and actual expenditures for the same purpose in the
24 preceding year, a line item indicating expenditures for:

1 (1) notices required by law to be published in a
2 newspaper by the political subdivision or a representative of the
3 political subdivision; and

4 (2) directly or indirectly influencing or attempting
5 to influence the outcome of legislation or administrative action,
6 as those terms are defined in Section 305.002, Government Code
7 ~~[that allows as clear a comparison as practicable between those~~
8 ~~expenditures in the proposed budget and actual expenditures for the~~
9 ~~same purpose in the preceding year].~~

10 (b) Subsection (a)(1) ~~[This section]~~ does not apply to a
11 junior college district.

12 SECTION 4. Section 161.001, Local Government Code, is
13 amended to read as follows:

14 Sec. 161.001. APPLICABILITY OF CHAPTER. This chapter
15 applies only to:

16 (1) a county that:
17 (A) ~~[(1)]~~ has a population of 800,000 or more;
18 (B) ~~[(2)]~~ is located on the international
19 border; and
20 (C) ~~[(3)]~~ before September 1, 2009, had a county
21 ethics board appointed by the commissioners court;

22 (2) a county that:
23 (A) has a population of 425,000 or more;
24 (B) is adjacent to a county with a population of
25 3.3 million or more; and

26 (C) contains a portion of the San Jacinto River;
27 and

1 (3) a county that has a population of less than 40,000
2 that is adjacent to a county with a population of more than 3.3
3 million.

4 SECTION 5. Subchapter C, Chapter 161, Local Government
5 Code, is amended by adding Section 161.107 to read as follows:

6 Sec. 161.107. DISCLOSURE OF CERTAIN CONTRACTS. (a) The
7 commission shall prominently display on the county's Internet
8 website the following regarding contracts for services executed by
9 the county that would require a person to register as a lobbyist
10 under Chapter 305, Government Code:

11 (1) the execution dates;

12 (2) the contract duration terms, including any
13 extension options;

14 (3) the effective dates;

15 (4) the final amount of money the county paid in the
16 previous fiscal year;

17 (5) the identity of all parties to the contract;

18 (6) the identity of all subcontractors in the
19 contract; and

20 (7) the legislative agenda of the county.

21 (b) In lieu of displaying the items described by Subsections
22 (a)(1)-(6) regarding a contract for services that would require a
23 person to register as a lobbyist under Chapter 305, Government
24 Code, the commission may post on the county's Internet website the
25 contract executed by the county for those services.

26 (c) Information required to be displayed on a county's
27 Internet website under this section is public information subject

1 to disclosure under Chapter 552, Government Code.

2 SECTION 6. Chapter 170, Local Government Code, is amended
3 by adding Section 170.002 to read as follows:

4 Sec. 170.002. CODE OF ETHICS FOR CERTAIN COMMISSIONERS
5 COURTS. (a) This section applies to a county that has a population
6 of less than 40,000 that is adjacent to a county with a population
7 of more than 3.3 million.

8 (b) The commissioners court of a county subject to this
9 section may adopt by order a code of ethics that provides standards
10 of conduct for members of the commissioners court.

11 (c) If a commissioners court of a county subject to this
12 section adopts a code of ethics under this section, the code of
13 ethics must require each member of the commissioners court to file a
14 conflicts disclosure statement that is in addition to the statement
15 required by Section 176.003.

16 SECTION 7. This Act takes effect immediately if it receives
17 a vote of two-thirds of all the members elected to each house, as
18 provided by Section 39, Article III, Texas Constitution. If this
19 Act does not receive the vote necessary for immediate effect, this
20 Act takes effect September 1, 2019.

President of the Senate

Speaker of the House

I certify that H.B. No. 1495 was passed by the House on May 8, 2019, by the following vote: Yeas 109, Nays 28, 2 present, not voting; that the House refused to concur in Senate amendments to H.B. No. 1495 on May 24, 2019, and requested the appointment of a conference committee to consider the differences between the two houses; and that the House adopted the conference committee report on H.B. No. 1495 on May 26, 2019, by the following vote: Yeas 116, Nays 11, 1 present, not voting.

Chief Clerk of the House

H.B. No. 1495

I certify that H.B. No. 1495 was passed by the Senate, with amendments, on May 22, 2019, by the following vote: Yeas 27, Nays 4; at the request of the House, the Senate appointed a conference committee to consider the differences between the two houses; and that the Senate adopted the conference committee report on H.B. No. 1495 on May 26, 2019, by the following vote: Yeas 30, Nays 1.

Secretary of the Senate

APPROVED: _____

Date

Governor